GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:359
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2005
PPA IN COUGH DRUGS
Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that in many cough drugs in India containing an ingredient known as phenylpropanolamine(PPA) banned in many countries are freely sold in India as appeared in the Hindustan Times dated January 29, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the presence of PPA causes the risk of stroke and other side effects particularly among women; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to curb the use of PPA in cough drugs?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) to (d): The PPA (Phenylpropanolamine) has been used in cough & cold preparations in many countries. The PPA containing products were withdrawn in USA in November 2000, where these were marketed in higher strengths for weight loss in addition to their use in cough & cold preparations, because of reported risk of Hemorrhagic Strokes, on the basis of a study conducted in Yale University. The Committee of Safety of Medicines in UK also examined the matter of safety of PPA and concluded that the evidence of link between Hemorrhagic Stroke and PPA is weak and the formulations for cough and cold in low doses may continue to be sold in UK through the Pharmacies (without prescription). The drug was not permitted to be marketed for weight loss in UK.

The matter was also simultaneously examined in India in 2000-2001 in consultation with the Experts and it was felt that in view of the similarity of use of PPA formulations in India to that of UK, the drug should be permitted to be marketed in cough & cold preparations with daily dose not more than 50mg for children and 100mg for adults. The use of the drug in India as well as in other countries and the current literature emanating from its use internationally is monitored in consultation with the Experts. The drug is still in use in countries like UK & Germany.